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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

DDI #7143-82

7 Sept '82

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Weapons and Space Systems Intelligence Committee  
Chairman, Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee

VIA : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : Henry S. Rowen  
Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT : Proposal for an Interagency Study on Soviet Battlefield  
Laser Threat to US Forces

REFERENCE : Memo from D/OSWR to C/NIC, Same Subject, DDI-6870/82,  
Dated 23 Aug 82

1. I have reviewed the referenced proposal and believe it merits serious consideration. It is clear that the deployment of anti-sensor laser weapons on the battlefield presents a major challenge to US weapon developers, and the Army Chief of Staff has recently reiterated his concerns over these developments. I believe these concerns and the other factors noted in the proposal argue for a prompt response by the Intelligence Community. ☐

2. The most effective and efficient vehicle for such an assessment appears to be a joint WSSIC/STIC study. The assessment should include some projective thinking on where in the force structure these weapons may be deployed and how they would be used on the battlefield. This will require some work outside of the S&T Community. The study should be geared to the people who allocate R&D dollars rather than bench engineers and should be on as tight a schedule as possible. ☐

3. I believe it would be beneficial for MG Edward B. Atkeson, USA, National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces, to oversee this project. He has spoken with General Meyer about Army concerns in this area and is meeting this week the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition to discuss Army requirements in greater detail. I suggest that General Atkeson meet with appropriate representatives from your committees and the DDI as soon as possible to begin defining terms of reference for the study. ☐

*Henry S. Rowen*  
Henry S. Rowen

CL BY SIGNER  
DECL OADR  
DERV FROM MIL 7-82/COL 4-82

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/WSSIC  
C/STIC

VIA : DDI

FROM : C/NIC

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